

- b. Flowering scapes and petioles densely hispid with long (2-3.5 mm.) hairs. Leaves 4-8 cm. broad. *H. Richardsonii* var. *hispidior*.
2. Capsules more or less exserted, stamens obviously exserted, petals both glandular and papillose . . . . . *H. Richardsonii* var. *Grayana*.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

---

## HEUCHERA HISPIDA PURSH REDISCOVERED<sup>1</sup>

EDGAR T. WHERRY

DURING the year 1805 Frederick Pursh collected plants in the Appalachian mountain region of Virginia and West Virginia, a number of which were described as new species in his *Flora Americae Septentrionalis*, which appeared 9 years later. Among these was a *Heuchera hispida*, stated to have the leaves hispid above but glabrous beneath, the peduncles glabrous, and the flowers medium-sized with purple petals and exserted stamens.<sup>2</sup> Through misunderstanding, subsequent authors came to apply this name to a western plant having the peduncles and lower leaf-surfaces more hispid than the upper surfaces. This situation was recognized in the course of a revision of the genus undertaken at the University of Minnesota by Miss Olga Lakela and Professors Rosendahl and Butters,<sup>3</sup> but on borrowing material from various herbaria they were unable to find a specimen corresponding to Pursh's description in any subsequent collection, except a few of material grown by Gray from roots collected in Giles County, Virginia, in 1843. A Pursh specimen of *H. hispida* is fortunately preserved, however, in the herbarium of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and the label gives its place of collection as "high mountains between Fincastle & the Sweet Springs." On being advised of these facts in the Spring of 1932, the writer decided to endeavor to rediscover the plant, and as soon as the term's class work was over started on a trip, in company with Professor S. C. Palmer of Swarthmore College.

Leaving Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, on June 9th, we made several stops to collect plants en route, and reached Fincastle, Botetourt County, Virginia, in the afternoon of June 12th. Continuing north-

<sup>1</sup> Contribution from the Botanical Laboratory of the University of Pennsylvania. This account of the incidents of the trip supersedes any which has appeared in newspapers and popular magazines.

<sup>2</sup> *Flora Americae Septentrionalis* 1: 188. 1814.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. the preceding article.

westward from this town, we took an unpaved but fairly good road which led over higher mountain passes than the modern highway, but found only *Heuchera pubescens* Pursh, a widespread species, between there and Newcastle, Craig County. The main highway running north from the latter place (State No. 22) proved to have been recently reconstructed, and though not yet surfaced was wide and well-graded, so even though night was approaching and clouds could be seen to be gathering along the mountain ridges, we ventured to continue on 11 miles to the summit of Potts Mountain, which was reached about 8 P.M.

At the point where the highway crosses the divide, elevation about 2400 feet, we found an openly wooded rocky flat, and had soon selected a parking place for the night. Then, before making any preparations to retire, we got out our flashlights and started to look around to see if any *Heuchera* might be growing there. The fog was almost impenetrable, but in a few moments Palmer's flashlight beam struck a clump of one of them, and a leaf was soon brought closer to the light. It proved to be hispid on top but not beneath, just as Pursh had said, and the flowers, though just beginning to open, agreed wholly with his description. We had rediscovered, at or near the type locality, the real *Heuchera hispida*, not seen growing there for 127 years, and last seen in the wild, in the county next adjoining on the west, by Gray 89 years before.

The following morning we found two or three additional plants in bloom, and several in bud, along with another member of the genus, the well-known *H. villosa* Michaux, not yet showing its inflorescence.

On descending the north side of the mountain, the *H. hispida* proved to be present down to about 400 feet below the summit. Continuing on toward Sweet Springs, we saw a few additional plants of this species high up on Peters Mountain, in both Craig County, Virginia, and Monroe County, West Virginia. None could be found, however, in any other part of the Appalachians visited, from western Virginia to southern Pennsylvania, so it is evidently endemic in a decidedly restricted area.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.